

Amendments to the specification:

Please delete the paragraph starting at page 4, line 25, and ending at page 5, line 7, and replace it with the following replacement paragraph with markings to show changes relative to the deleted version thereof:

Aqueous cleaning compositions have commonly been used in applications including hospitals, household, institutional, and industrial services, hand and body soaps, laundry soaps, warewashing and housekeeping services. Typically, these cleaning materials are made by diluting liquid or gelled materials to form a use solution. Many such solutions have had some success in the past, however, a substantial need in this art exists to manufacture an easily used concentrate having minimal water and high actives concentration, excellent soil, e.g., grease, removal properties and controlled foaming. Many prior art materials, even in a concentrate form, contain substantial amounts of water which can present challenges in the manufacture, transportation and sale of these materials ~~is difficult to manufacture, transport and sell.~~ The While any of these prior art materials may also exhibit sufficient ~~may have some~~ soil removal properties, but improving grease removal properties represent one area, in particular in the field of and hard surface cleaners wherein the art is yet struggling to provide a commercially acceptable solution that is yet cost effective for the manufacturer. ~~is a continuing need or requirement.~~ More specifically, there continues to be an unmet need, in the area of hard surface cleaners in particular, for a material that ~~Further, the manufacture of materials that is capable of produce~~ producing useful amounts of foam in the presence of large quantities of greasy soil, which amount of foam is then useful for the removal thereof. ~~is a continuing challenge for this marketplace.~~

Please delete the two paragraphs starting at page 6, line 22, and ending at page 7, line 19, and replace them with the following replacement paragraphs with markings to show changes relative to the deleted versions thereof:

~~The solid block detergent compositions of the present invention~~ are produced using a batch or continuous mixing system, preferably a single- or twin- screw extruder, by combining and mixing one or more cleaning agents and a hardening agent at high shear to form a homogeneous mixture. Preferably, the processing temperature is at or below the melting temperature of the ingredients. Optionally, but preferably, the cleaning agent[s] is/are combined with one or more additive ingredients. The processed mixture may be dispensed from the mixer by extruding, casting, or other suitable means, whereupon the composition hardens to a solid form which ranges in consistency from a solid block to a malleable, spongy, self-supporting form, such as a coil, square or other shape. Variations in processing parameters

may be used to control the development of crystal size and crystalline structure of the matrix and thus the texture of the final product. For example, continuing to shear the mixture while solidification is in progress will create a smaller crystal and a pasty product. The structure of the matrix may be characterized according to hardness, melting point, material distribution, crystal structure, and other like properties according to known methods in the art. A ~~cleaning~~ detergent composition processed according to the method of the invention is substantially homogeneous with regard to the distribution of ingredients throughout its mass, and is also substantially deformation-free.

The ~~solid block~~ detergents of the invention contain a package of surfactants including a neutralized anionic surfactant, either one or a mix of an alkali and alkaline earth metal salt, and an alkylpolyglycoside. Nonionic and/or amphoteric surfactants may also form part of the package. The active ingredients and hardening agents, e.g., polyethylene glycol, are dispersed in a matrix which hardens to form a solid block. ~~The~~ This solid block detergent, in turn, can be dispensed with a water spray to form an aqueous detergent that more effectively for cutting and removing cuts and removes grease[,] and removing and suspending]suspends and removes soils, and yet rinses rinsing easily to leave leaving cleaned ware.

Please insert the following text, taken from pages 13 and 14 of the specification as filed, at page 10, line 1, before “**Aqueous Medium**”:

Alkaline Sources

The detergent compositions according to the invention desirably include minor amounts of one or more alkaline sources that are yet effective to neutralize the anionic surfactants and improve soil removal performance of the composition. Alkali metals or alkaline earth metal hydroxides are preferred for use for this purpose, although other hydratable alkaline sources may be used, and one or more of the same is/are preferably included in the detergent composition in an amount effective to neutralize the anionic surfactant. However, it can be appreciated that an alkali metal hydroxide or other alkaline source can assist, to a limited extent, in solidification of the composition. Although the amount of alkali metal and alkaline earth metal hydroxide is necessitated to neutralize the anionic surfactant as above described, additional secondary alkaline sources may be present, if desired, so long as the pH of an aqueous solution comprising the detergent composition does not exceed 9.

Suitable alkali metal hydroxides include, for example, sodium or potassium hydroxide. Suitable alkaline earth metal hydroxides include, for example, magnesium hydroxide. Alkali and earth metal hydroxides are commercially available as a solid in the form of prilled beads having a mix of particle sizes ranging from about 12-100 US mesh, or as an aqueous solution, as for example, as a 50 wt-% and a

73 wt-% solution, and either form may be added to the present detergent composition. It is preferred that the alkali or alkaline earth metal hydroxide is added in the form of an aqueous solution, preferably a 50 wt-% aqueous solution, to reduce the amount of heat generated in the composition, as may be heightened upon introduction and subsequent hydration of the solid alkali material relative to an aqueous solution thereof.

Please delete the paragraph starting at page 11, line 32, and ending at page 11, line 4, and replace it with the following replacement paragraph with markings to show changes relative to the deleted version thereof:

The [cleaning] detergent compositions may further include conventional detergent adjuvants such as [a] one or more sequestering agent[s], bleaching agent[s], secondary alkaline source[s], [enzyme], secondary hardening agent, defoamer, anti-redeposition agent, a threshold agent or system, aesthetic enhancing agent (i.e., dye, perfume), and other like additives. Adjuvants and other additive ingredients will vary according to the type of composition being manufactured.

Please delete the four paragraphs starting at page 13, line 24, and ending at page 14, line 30, and replace them with the following replacement paragraphs with markings to show changes relative to the deleted versions thereof:

Secondary Alkaline Sources

~~The cleaning composition produced according to the invention may include minor but effective amounts of one or more alkaline sources to neutralize the anionic surfactants and improve soil removal performance of the composition. Accordingly, an alkali metal or alkaline earth metal hydroxide or other hydratable alkaline source is preferably included in the cleaning composition in an amount effective to neutralize the anionic surfactant. However, it can be appreciated that an alkali metal hydroxide or other alkaline source can assist to a limited extent, in solidification of the composition. Although the amount of alkali metal and alkaline earth metal hydroxide is necessitated to neutralize the anionic surfactant as above described, additional alkaline sources may be present to a point where the pH of an aqueous solution does not exceed 9.~~

~~Suitable alkali metal hydroxides include, for example, sodium or potassium hydroxide. Suitable alkaline earth metal hydroxides include, for example, magnesium hydroxide. An alkali or alkaline earth metal hydroxide may be added to the composition in the form of solid beads, dissolved in an aqueous solution, or a combination thereof. Alkali and earth metal hydroxides are commercially available as a~~

~~solid in the form of prilled beads having a mix of particle sizes ranging from about 12-100 US mesh, or as an aqueous solution, as for example, as a 50 wt % and a 73 wt % solution. It is preferred that the alkali or alkaline earth metal hydroxide is added in the form of an aqueous solution, preferably a 50 wt % hydroxide solution, to reduce the amount of heat generated in the composition due to hydration of the solid alkali material relative to an aqueous solution thereof.~~

A [cleaning] detergent composition may include additional amounts of the alkali metal or alkaline earth metal hydroxides above and beyond the amount useful to neutralize the anionic surfactant, or may include amounts of a secondary alkaline source other than an the alkali metal or the alkali metal hydroxide, so long as the pH of an aqueous solution of the detergent compositions does not exceed 9. Examples of secondary alkaline sources include a metal silicate such as sodium or potassium silicate or metasilicate, a metal carbonate such as sodium or potassium carbonate, bicarbonate, or sesquicarbonate, and the like; a metal borate such as sodium or potassium borate, and the like; ethanolamine and amines; and other like alkaline sources. Secondary [alkalinity agents] alkaline sources are commonly available in either aqueous or powdered form, either of which is useful in formulating the present cleaning compositions.

Detergent Fillers

A [cleaning] detergent composition may include a minor but effective amount of one or more [of a] detergent fillers, which do[es] not perform as [a] cleaning agents per se, but cooperate[s] with the cleaning agents to enhance overall cleaning action of the detergent composition. Examples of fillers suitable for use in the present [cleaning] detergent compositions include sodium sulfate, sodium chloride, starch, sugars, and C₁-C₁₀ alkylene glycols such as propylene glycol, and the like. Preferably, [the] any such filler is included in an amount of about 1 to 20 wt %, preferably about 3 to 15 wt%.